

## **Patrol Squadron FOUR Visits Djiboutian Orphanage**

Prior to deploying to the AFRICOM and EUCOM Area of Responsibility in December of 2012, LT Ever Garay of Patrol Squadron FOUR, spent months gathering donations of toys and clothing for the young children's orphanages in Djibouti. The momentum he generated within the squadron culminated on January 17, 2013, when the members of Combat Air Crew Seven and the Djibouti detachment Officer In Charge spent the afternoon with a local orphanage distributing clothes and playing games.

LCDR Jeffrey Colvin, LT Shane Kitterman, LT Scott Felter, LTJG Matt O'Connor, LTJG Taylor Combs, AWO1 Christopher Aiu, AWF1 Dave Lambert, AWO2 Jeremy Smith, AWW2 Mathew Carrell, and AWO3 Daniel Philips began the afternoon with a friendly game of soccer with a couple of the children. As the game progressed, local Djiboutian children were inspired to join the fun and the intensity of the game increased. "Those little guys came to play. I knew it was game-on when one slide tackled me!" expressed AWW2 Mathew Carrell.



AWV2 Mathew Carrell moments after an excellent slide tackle.

As the game wound to its conclusion, many children began requesting piggy back rides. Of course, the Sailors were happy to oblige. The environment erupted in laughter as child after child ran to the "Skinny Dragons" with outstretched arms and eager faces. "I had three kids on my back and one on each arm. I was literally walking around with five children on me at one time," LT Kitterman laughed. The aircrew finished an awesome day with the exchange of high-fives and picture taking, remorseful they had to wave goodbye and return to base.



From left to right: AWO2 Jeremy Smith, LT Shane Kitterman, AW03 Daniel Phillips, LTJG Matt O'Connor (hand on head), LTJG Taylor Combs, and LT Scott Felter.